

In the claims:

The following is a complete listing of a clean version of the presently pending claims (note that all claims have been reproduced for the Examiner's convenience; claims amended and added hereby are so indicated by the parenthetical expressions "amended" and "new", respectively):

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1. (amended) A receptacle for holding fine powder medicament, the receptacle comprising:
a receptacle body that defines an enclosed cavity, wherein the receptacle body has a top end and a bottom end, and wherein the bottom end of the receptacle body includes a raised central region that extends upwardly into the cavity.
 2. A receptacle as in claim 1, wherein the receptacle body further comprises at least one curved wall that in combination with the raised central region forms a generally semi-toroidal geometry in the cavity.
 3. A receptacle as in claim 1, wherein a portion of the bottom end is flat in geometry.
 4. (amended) A receptacle as in claim 1, wherein the receptacle body further includes a tab extending from the cavity.
 5. A receptacle as in claim 1, further comprising a central hole in the top end and multiple vents, and a cover removably attached to the top end to cover the hole and the vents.
 13. A method for aerosolizing a powdered medicament, the method comprising:
providing a receptacle comprising a receptacle body that defines an enclosed cavity, wherein the receptacle body has a top end and a bottom end, and wherein the bottom end of the receptacle body includes a raised central region that extends upwardly into the cavity;

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inserting a bottom end of an extraction tube into the cavity such that the bottom end of the extraction tube is aligned with the raised central region and is spaced above the bottom end of the receptacle;

forming vents in the top end of the receptacle about a periphery of the cavity; and

flowing a gas stream through a least a portion of the extraction tube to draw air through the vents and then through the cavity to move the powder in the cavity into the extraction tube where the powder is entrained in the gas stream to form an aerosol.

14. A method as in claim 13, wherein the receptacle includes a curved wall, and wherein the air flows along the wall to remove substantially all powder from the receptacle.

15. A method as in claim 13, wherein the air drawn by the gas stream flows through a flow area, and further comprising reducing the flow area as the air flows through the receptacle and the extraction tube to accelerate the flow of air through the receptacle.

16. A method as in claim 15, wherein the vents form a first flow area, wherein a gap between the extraction tube and the bottom end of the receptacle defines a second flow area, and wherein a cross section of the extraction tube defines a third flow area, and wherein the first flow area is greater than the second flow area, and wherein the second flow area is greater than the third flow area.

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17. A method as in claim 16, wherein the ratio of the first flow area to the second flow area and to the third flow area is about 2.0:1.5:1.0.

18. A method as in claim 13, further comprising piercing a hole through the top end of the receptacle and inserting the extraction tube into the cavity through the hole in the top end.

19. A method as in claim 13, further comprising introducing the gas stream into the extraction tube at a location spaced apart from the bottom end of the extraction tube.

20. A method as in claim 13, further comprising forming a hole in the bottom end of the receptacle body, and flowing the gas stream through the hole in the bottom end.

21. A method as in claim 13, further comprising a patient inhaling to produce the gas stream.

22. A method as in claim 13, further comprising releasing an amount of pressurized gas to produce the gas stream.

31. A system for aerosolizing a powdered medicament, the system comprising:
at least one receptacle that comprises a receptacle body that defines an enclosed cavity, wherein the receptacle body has a top end and a bottom end, and wherein the bottom end of the receptacle body includes a raised central region that extends upwardly into the cavity; and
an aerosolizing apparatus having a holder for holding the receptacle, an extraction tube that is insertable into the cavity, a vent forming device to form multiple vents in the top end of the receptacle about a periphery of the cavity.

32. (amended) A system as in claim 31, further comprising a pressure source for producing a high pressure gas stream within at least a portion of the extraction tube to draw air through the vents to move the powder from the cavity and into the extraction tube where the powder is entrained in the high pressure gas stream to form an aerosol.

33. A system as in claim 32, further comprising a flow insert to control spacing of the extraction tube relative to the receptacle.

34. A system as in claim 32, wherein a portion of the bottom end of the receptacle is flat in geometry.